

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1518

POUCHED TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH LETTER CARRIERS UNION

REF: OTTAWA 1463

1. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF INTENSIVE BARGAINING PUNCTUATED BY SERIES OF ROTATING WORK STOPPAGES NEW CONTRACT CONCLUDED APRIL 24 GIVING 16,000 LETTER CARRIERS 38 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE OVER 30 MONTHS PLUS COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT OF ONE CENT FOR EACH 0.4 PERCENT RISE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OPERATIVE ONLY DURING LAST 16 MONTHS OF AGREEMENT. ACCEPTANCE BY TREASURY BOARD OF COLA PROVISION MAY SET PRECEDENT FOR OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR BARGAINING. CURRENT HOURLY RATE OF C\$4.44 FOR LETTER CARRIER WITH THREE YEARS SENIORITY WILL RISE TO C\$6.14 BY JULY 1976. THE SETTLEMENT WHICH MUST BE RATIFIED BY UNION MEMBERSHIP FURTHER PROVIDES FOR MATCHING POST OFFICE CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH INSURANCE, FIVE WEEKS VACATION AFTER 27 YEARS AND FOUR WEEKS AFTER 14 YEARS SERVICE, HIGHER CLOTHING ALLOWANCE AND INCREASE IN DIFFERENTIAL FOR MAIL TRUCK DRIVERS AND SUPERVISING CARRIERS FROM CURRENT 25 CENTS AN HOUR TO 40 CENTS IN FINAL YEAR OF CONTRACT.

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2. POSTMASTER GENERAL MACKASEY EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH NEW AGREEMENT AND NOTED INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE TERMS IN MISLEADING WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT POSTAL EMPLOYEES ARE AMONG LOWEST PAID IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

3. COMMENT: SETTLEMENT WITH LETTER CARRIERS FURRTHER CONFIRMS TREND REFLECTED IN OTHER RECENT FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS GENERAL LABOR AND TRADES GROUP AND MINT WORKERS THAT TREASURY BOARD IS PREPARED TO GRANT APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT ANNUAL WAGE ADJUSTMENTS. WHILE VERY HIGH IN COMPARISON TO RECENT U.S. SETTLEMENTS, CANADIAN NEGOTIATORS POINT TO LOSSES IN PURCHASING POWER DURING INFLATIONARY RISE IN COST OF LIVING DURING LIFE OF EXPIRING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACTS AND ANTICIPATED HIGH CPI INCREASES DURING AT LEAST INITIAL PHASE OF RENEGOTIATED ACCORDS IN JUSTIFYING MAGNITUDE OF WAGE AND SALARY INCREASES. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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